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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 /082 W
---------- 023461
R 051016Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3621
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, LA, VS
SUBJECT: LAOS RECOGNIZES PRG

REF: VIENTIANE 2983

1. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 30, 1975, THAT THE LAO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION HAD CEASED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE "SAIGON REGIME" AND NOW RECOGNIZED THE "PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIET-NAM(PRG)" AS THE "ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE." ANNOUNCEMENT WAS BROADCAST APRIL 30 BUT BECAUSE OF LABOR DAY HOLIDAY WAS PUBLISHED ONLY ON MAY 2.

2. ALTHOUGH NO ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY MOVED WITH BRUTAL EFFICIENCY AND SPEED TO TAKE OVER FORMER GVN EMBASSY. WITHIN ONE HOUR OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF SAIGON'S FALL ON APRIL 30, PERSONNEL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY WENT TO GVN EMBASSY AND TOOK IT OVER, THROWING
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OUT GVN PERSONNEL AND DOZENS OF VIETNAMESE WHO HAD COME

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THAT MORNING FOR THEIR PASSPORTS.

3. A VIETNAMESE NATIONAL EMPLOYED BY USAID (JOE HUNG-REFTEL) HAS BEEN TOLD BY PRO-COMMUNIST VIETNAMESE VISITORS TO HIS HOUSE, WHO BROUGHT HIM A LARGE PORTRAIT OF HO CHI MINH TO HANG ON HIS WALL, THAT "PRG FOREIGN MINISTER" MME. NGUYEN THI BINH WILL TRANSIT VIENTIANE ON OR ABOUT MAY 11 EN ROUTE FROM EUROPE TO SAIGON. THE LOCAL VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY, ACCORDING TO SAME VISITORS, IS TO BE AT WATTAY AIRPORT IN FORCE TO GREET HER. HUNG ALSO REPORTS THAT A "PRG" AMBASSADOR TO VIENTIANE IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ON MAY 15 AND THAT THERE WILL BE A LARGE DEMONSTRATION TO COMMEMORATE HO CHI MINH'S BIRTHDAY ON MAY 19. (COMMENT: WE HAVE NO RPT NO CONFIRMATION OF THESE REPORTS. AN OFFICER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS' PROTOCOL OFFICE, SAID MAY 5 THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD OF MME. BINH'S PROPOSED STOP. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE "PRG" HAD YET TO ASK FOR AGREMENT FOR AN AMBASSADOR.)

4. AS REGARDS LAO REPRESENTATION IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOUND ITSELF LAST WEEK IN EXQUISITELY EMBARRASSING SITUATION. ACCORDING TO SEC-RETARY GENERAL, NAKKHALA SOUVANNAVONG, DESPITE EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS TO CLOSE EMBASSY AND RETURN HOME, LAO EMBASSY PERSONNEL (TWO MFA OFFICERS AND ONE RADIO OPERATOR) WERE CAUGHT IN SAIGON WHEN IT FELL. IN FACT, ON THAT DAY, APRIL 30, NAKKHALA WAS TRYING TO REACH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO ASK THAT RADIO LINK WHICH WAS MILITARY BE CUT TO AVOID FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT. NAKKHALA WAS FURIOUS AND COULD NOT UNDERSTAND STUPIDITY OF LAO EMBASSY EMPLOYEES IN SAIGON.
CHAPMAN

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